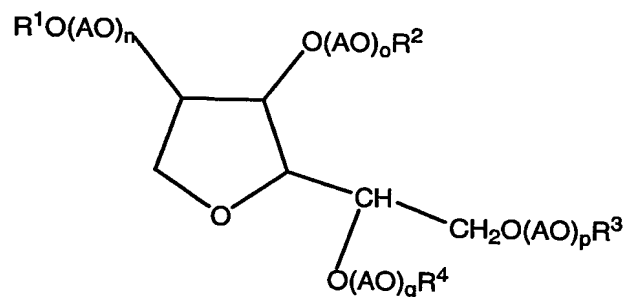


CLAIMS

1. Process for the production of a biological substance by perfusion culturing of suspended animal cells in a serum free cell culture medium, wherein the biological substance is separated from the cells by filtration, characterized in that at least 0.001 w/w% of polyoxyalkylene sorbitan fatty acid ester represented by formula 1,



(1)

- wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^3 and R^4 each independently represent H or a fatty acid restgroup, i.e. the remains of a condensation of a fatty acid and an alcohol, provided that at least one of R^1 through R^4 is a fatty acid restgroup, wherein A represents an ethylene or propylene group and n, o, p and q each independently represent values from 0 to 100, is present in the cell culture medium.
2. Process according to claim 1, characterized in that in formula 1, the sum of n, o, p, and q is from 50 to 300.
3. Process according to claim 1 or claim 2, characterized in that at least 0.01 w/w% of the compound of formula 1 is present in the cell culture medium.
4. Process according to any of claims 1-3, characterized in that the animal cells are mammalian cells.
5. Process according to any of claims 1-4, characterized in that the compound of formula 1 is a TweenTM compound.
6. Process according to any of claims 1-5, characterized in that the filtration is performed with an internal filter.
7. Process according to claim 6, characterized in that the internal filter is a spinfilter.
8. Process according to any of claims 1-7, characterized in that the biological substance is a biopharmaceutical product.

9. Process according to claim 8, characterized in that the serum free cell culture medium is also a mammalian source free medium.
10. Process according to any of claims 1-9, characterized in that the biological substance is further purified by downstream processing.